

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1912.

DO YOUR DUTY TO-DAY.

Vote to-day.
 Vote for the five best men you can
 pick out.

Vote, for unless there is elected to-
 day an efficient Common Council, ad-
 dressed of men of breadth of view and
 loftiness of purpose, the new plan of
 government for Richmond will fail.

Vote, for it's your business that
 these men are going to handle, and the
 better the managers, the better the
 management of your business.

Vote for the men who will work for
 good government, not for the cut-throat
 politicians and demagogues.

Vote for the best men, because only
 the best men can co-operate intelli-
 gently with the Administrative Board,
 and such co-operation is indispensable
 to the success of the new plan.

Vote to kick the wardheelers' hat out
 of the ring.

Vote for men who are not owned by
 the city employees.

Vote, no matter what you think the
 result may be.

Vote to-day for better government
 for Richmond, for business-like man-
 agement of the city's business.

Vote for the five best men.

Vote. Your vote counts. If you
 don't vote you are in the same class
 with idiots, lunatics and convicts.

Vote. This means you. The politi-
 cians are counting on your not voting.

TITANIC INQUIRY A BLIND?

Can it be possible that the investi-
 gation by the Senate of the Titanic
 disaster has any other meaning or
 motive than the desire to get at the
 causes of the catastrophe? Is the
 total eclipse of all other congressional
 activities by this spectacular court
 without political significance? We
 wonder. At all events, since the in-
 vestigation and indignation of the country
 have been centered on this vital mat-
 ter, nothing has been heard of the
 passage of any other legislation,
 equally vital and necessary. Congress
 has been emphatically marking time.
 The importance of importance has been
 proposed, there has been "nothing
 doing." It may seem in more ways than
 one providential to these sedate gen-
 tlemen who, safely seated behind a
 thrilling tragedy, can eat of the lotus
 of innocuous despatch without run-
 ning any risk of influencing popular
 feeling by action. Meanwhile, the
 presidential conventions draw on apace,
 the Mexican intervention scene fails
 to distract attention from doldrums
 into which the tariff issue and the
 trust issue and all other real issues
 have fallen, becoming, the same can-
 not be said of the Titanic investiga-
 tion. Research into life-rafts has not
 implied any legislation that might be
 used for planks out of which to con-
 struct a platform for saving the
 wrecked pocketbook of the ultimate
 consumer.

The investigation of the facts and
 results of this great wreck is a very
 necessary and praiseworthy undertak-
 ing. It should be pursued with reluc-
 tant vigor. But it is not needful that
 everything else in the country stop for
 two or three more weeks. Senator
 Smith thinks his committee will need
 complete their duties. By that
 time the immediate pressure of the
 conventions will furnish legitimate ex-
 cuse for avoiding the big issues, and
 the people will go to the polls no wiser
 than before as to what is being done
 or then.

THE JUDGES AND THE LOBBY.

Discontent with the courts is coeval
 with the first arbiters of the world.
 Man nature has never been so strong
 as it could substitute decision for
 desire. The wild fanatics and petulant
 anachronists who seek to undermine
 a judiciary constitute no new species
 of paranoia; the only novel thing is
 that so many have conspired together
 to do it. One time and in one country to
 render jurisprudence sacred. The crime
 is ever been emblematic of dignity,
 and justice, rather than of popu-
 larity, conciliation and cowardice.
 The judges, right has been more on
 a throne than on the scaffold. There
 are always been men who sought to
 discredit the judges because they dared
 to be independent and shrank not from
 the courage of conviction.

It is well in a time like this, when
 the muckrakers and the self-dolators
 are at work, to remember that right
 is always and right justly through the
 judges. The judges have, as a body,
 lost integrity and justice. For
 Jeffreys that the Grebards point
 thousand good men and true can
 not; for every Grosscup that the
 thousand courts above criticism
 found. The corrupt and unjust
 as that the scavengers resur-
 rector and scattered, but bring
 stronger relief the preponder-
 ant courts that are righteous and
 overwhelming majority of judges
 hold the majesty of the law.
 thing, at least, those who seek
 the legislative branch above
 the judiciary should not forget. There
 are corrupt courts, but so ren-

eral and so genuine is the fear and
 respect with which law-tampering
 crooks and corrupt politicians hold
 the judiciary that there is no system of
 court bobbies. There are, doubtless,
 some courts which incline to the advice
 of the ungodly, but the lobby, as an
 adjunct to the court, is anomalous. In
 every Capitol there are great and pow-
 erful lobbies, openly influencing legis-
 lation to do wrong. The lobby intimid-
 ates the Legislature, but it respects
 the judiciary. The incorruptibility of
 the courts is more than a tradition to
 which age has given currency; it is a
 great moral force, working for the
 ends of righteousness and justice, and
 the race of politicians instinctively
 feel it. The lobbyist who hesitates not
 a moment to approach the most honest
 legislator shrinks at the thought of
 throwing his arm around the judge's
 neck. A small minority of judges have
 been influenced improperly, and will
 be as long as the flesh is weak, but
 the great majority of judges have been
 honorable imitators of my Lord Coke's
 famous declaration of independence
 when he replied to the King of Eng-
 land when the latter desired delay in
 a certain case and foreknowledge of
 its decision: "When the case happens
 I shall do that which shall be fit for a
 judge."

CALL A MASS-MEETING.

Acting alike for like reasons, the
 Business Men's Club and the Chamber
 of Commerce yesterday decided not to
 participate officially in the election of
 any persons for any positions under
 the city government. They declared
 that they would endorse policies and
 movements promoting the interest of
 Richmond, but felt that it was without
 their scope to take part as bodies in
 the nomination of suitable citizens for
 the Administrative Board. Both these
 organizations were active and aggres-
 sive in causing the new plan of gov-
 ernment to be adopted, and many felt
 that, having had such a prominent part
 in the inauguration of the new form of
 government, these two bodies should
 help to carry it off to a successful in-
 ception. The Chamber of Commerce
 and the Business Men's Club, on the
 other hand, doubtless conceived that
 it would be unwise to set a precedent
 even in so meritorious a case, and,
 therefore, declined to enter upon fur-
 ther activity in the movement.

"The affairs of our city are too im-
 portant and large to be administered
 by men of small calibre, and there
 must be an aroused public sentiment
 on the part of the citizens in general
 to see that the members of the Admin-
 istrative Board are men who measure
 up to its requirements both in ability
 and character," asserts the circular
 sent out by the Chamber of Commerce.
 That is a sentiment which is shared
 by the patriotic citizens of Richmond,
 yet both the Chamber of Commerce
 and the Business Men's Club will
 doubtless concede that to have an
 "aroused public sentiment" somebody
 must do the arousing. It takes work
 to do that, it takes organization, and
 it takes concerted action. For that
 reason The Times-Dispatch hopes that
 the two organizations mentioned will
 call and arrange for a mass-meeting
 to be held Wednesday night, the only
 purpose of which will be to arouse
 public sentiment to the necessity for
 enlarging the city electorate.

Two-thirds of the adults of Rich-
 mond eligible to vote will not pay
 their poll taxes this year unless there
 is a prompt and vigorous campaign
 by the citizens. Saturday is the last
 day for the payment of poll taxes, and
 after that date no man can qualify to
 vote for the Administrative Board. At
 present the city employees and their
 allies control the city vote, and natu-
 rally the city employees desire to
 elect to the board the most undesirable
 and incompetent men. The city em-
 ployees constitute a combination in re-
 straint of decent and business-like
 government. There is but one remedy:
 the patriotic citizens of Richmond
 must get together and make a con-
 certed and powerful effort to get hun-
 dreds of more men to pay their poll
 taxes. Such an effort would be fruit-
 ful of far-reaching results of inesti-
 mable value to the city. If the Cham-
 ber of Commerce and the Business
 Men's Club will call a mass-meeting
 to consider ways and means for in-
 creasing the electorate of Richmond,
 they will not thereby participate in the
 selection of any person for any office,
 but they will start a splendid "move-
 ment to promote the interest of the
 city." If these organizations do not
 call such a mass-meeting there is no
 likelihood that it will be called at all.
 Such a meeting cannot possibly go
 beyond the sphere to which the two
 bodies have confined themselves.

The Chamber of Commerce and the
 Business Men's Club will render the
 community a notable service by calling
 such a mass-meeting. It is up to them.
THE VANISHED MAY DAY.
 It is strange that May Day should
 have passed out of the calendar of our
 natural feasts. It was a native Eng-
 lish expression of the universal festal
 gratitude at the return of spring. The
 observance of this day is said to have
 begun among the Druidic priesthood,
 who offered sacrifices then as a kind
 of thank-offering for the departure
 of the cold and gloom of winter, and
 for the promise of new crops and re-
 vived hopes. The tradition persisted
 into Anglo-Saxon times, taking on the
 character of a celebration of joy and
 prosperity and youthful merry-making,
 over which Florio presided as a bright
 divinity, worshipped with flowers and
 song. The wild mirth and revelry of
 the country-folk centered around the
 May-pole and the picturesque dance
 of men and maids, herb-boned and gar-
 landed into beauty. It was a holiday
 for youthful lovers, and included the
 happy ceremony of crowning the
 belief of the village as Queen of the
 May. A touch of poetry was added by
 the presence of the chimney-sweepers

in grotesque costumes, and with a
 clown and a band of fiddlers and
 whistlers. These sooty fellows, emerg-
 ing from their dark chimneys, were
 meant to symbolize the return of life
 and color and gaiety after the long
 and sombre reign of winter.

To-day there are but few survivors
 of this out-door ritual of a nature-
 loving people. In remote country-
 sides a May festival is sometimes held,
 and the young men show their prowess
 in games for the honor of choosing
 their queen. But generally all ob-
 servance has dwindled to the pretty
 custom of children's May baskets
 hung, full of spring blossoms, on the
 doors of houses in the early dawn.
 The passing of many of these holidays
 where men acknowledge the rule of
 Nature and their own dependency on
 her bounty is a cause for regret. City
 dwellers, who get their food from cold
 storage and their flowers from hot-
 houses, have no intimate acquaintance
 with the procession of the seasons and
 their various gifts. Easter, too, has
 absorbed in its formal observance
 much of the spontaneous pagan senti-
 ment and love of life that buds in
 man's heart every spring. Perhaps
 the music festivals held over the
 country at this time may reflect some-
 thing of this spirit, but in them there
 is little of that carnival feeling in
 which the whole community can share.
 It is true we have electric lights and
 furnaces and paved streets to make
 us forget the supremacy of the in-
 clement elements, but our material
 progress is not unaccompanied by real
 losses when we forget the real signifi-
 cance of the upspringing sun and the
 spreading of new and gorgeous tap-
 estries on the verdant and enameled
 meads.

A GOOD ROADS REVIVAL.

Just after the summer of 1910 it
 seemed that popular interest in the
 movement for better highways in Vir-
 ginia had subsided somewhat, but it
 appears now that the interregnum of
 inactivity meant only that good road
 sentiment was seeping through in
 every part of the Old Dominion. Ac-
 tivity for improved highways is in-
 creasing every day; the newspapers of
 the State are filled with good roads
 news and good roads appeals; counties
 that apparently were in eternal leth-
 argy so far as this reform is concerned
 have suddenly awakened and are com-
 ing to the front by leaps and bounds.
 Who ever thought, for instance, that
 the good old county of Stafford would
 ever realize the fearful condition of
 her roads and in April, 1912, vote a
 bond issue of \$100,000 for better ones?

Nineteen counties in Virginia have
 already voted bond issues aggregat-
 ing \$4,553,999 up to October 1, 1911.
 During the past fiscal year, according
 to State Highway Commissioner P. St.
 Julien Wilson, the following bond is-
 sues have been made:
 Amherst (second issue).....\$125,000
 Fauquier (one district).....75,000
 Lee (four districts).....354,000
 Mecklenburg (five additional
 districts).....230,000
 Russell (second issue).....275,000
 Smyth (one district).....100,000
 Tazewell (one district).....625,000
 Warren (one district).....30,000
 Wise.....700,000

Augusta county is to vote upon a
 \$1,000,000 bond issue to-day, and a cir-
 cular letter issued by Murray Boock,
 president of the Albemarle Good Roads
 Association, urges a bond issue of about
 \$100,000 in each of the six districts of
 Albemarle.
 Nor is Richmond lagging behind. Yester-
 day began a ten days' campaign to
 raise \$100,000 as this city's share in
 the Richmond-to-Washington highway
 link of the great Quebec-to-Miami
 Highway. For the construction of this
 particular link and for its financing a
 plan has been drawn up which is sec-
 ond to none in its practicability. Twenty
 per cent. of all money received for
 this link is to be set aside for the
 maintenance of the road, a feature
 which should be imitated by all road-
 building communities. Mere construc-
 tion of good roads is not enough; main-
 tenance is equally necessary to a per-
 fect good roads system. Richmond
 should subscribe the needed amount
 long before the time limit set, not only
 to show her primacy in such reform,
 but also to demonstrate that Richmond
 knows a good proposition when she
 sees it. The construction of the Rich-
 mond-to-Washington road will be an
 investment earning a hundredfold in
 profit to Richmond's business and to
 Richmond's progress and development.

Vote for the best men to-day.

Two "bush-leaguers" of Norton, who
 were tried out in Cincinnati, have re-
 turned home, and the Wise County
 News says that they will probably sign
 up with the Nettle Patch Bloomers or
 the Bear Creek Tigers to play some
 real baseball, fifty innings to the game,
 and almost as many players as there
 are spectators.

A vote for a good man is a vote for
 better government.

An Indiana woman got mad with
 her husband and poured hot coffee in
 his ears, driving him stone deaf. Oh,
 well, she can't talk him to death now.

"Not men who need the office, but
 men that the office needs must be
 elected to the Administrative Board,"
 is the excellent way that the Chamber
 of Commerce puts it.

"Mayor David Crockett Richardson,
 of Richmond, should continue to hold
 that position as long as he lives, and
 let us hope that may be for many
 more years to come," says the Orange
 Observer.

The Pittsylvania Tribune now breaks
 out into spring poetry:
 "When the dewdrop is in blossom,
 And the leaves begin to form,
 You can hear the dove a-calling
 To the farmer, 'plant your corn.'
 How's that for rhyme?"

Kick the ward politician's hat out of
 the ring to-day.

On the Spur of the Moment
By Roy K. Moulton

Why?
 Why does the bill collector always
 happen on Friday?
 Why does the cold snap always come
 when you are out of coal?
 Why does the pastor always call when
 your house is untidy?
 Why do the good shows always come
 when you have got no toll?
 Why does your youngster always squall
 when he's on exhibition?
 Why does the tomato always yowl
 just when you want to shoot?
 Why do the big feeds always come
 when you're not in condition?
 Why must you always give away
 the things you'd rather keep?

Why does the servant always quit
 when guests you have invited?
 Why does the phone bell always
 ring just after you're retired?
 Why does your dentist always look as
 though he was delighted?
 Why do you say the year's "re-
 signed" when all know you are
 fired?

Why do your friends, when you're
 alive, claim you as good friends
 should?
 Why do they always somehow save
 their praises till you die?
 How is it some things always come to
 this world as they shouldn't?
 The only answer Echo gives, and
 Echo answers, "Why?"

From the Hickeyville Clarion.
 It is reported that there is a shop-
 after working in our midst. Luke
 Gibbins says she may be a grind-
 strong woman, but he'll bet a grind-
 stone and a peck of carrots agin' a
 dozen dumplings that she can't lift his
 blacksmith shop.

Hi Higgins is gettin' ready for to
 take the census. Hi ought to be all
 right for that job, as he has always
 demonstrated his ability to take any-
 thing in sight—even Easter lie.

Rev. Hank's plug hat hasn't fit lately,
 and he thought his head was get-
 tin' out'n shape, as it felt like bump-
 ing inside of his hat. He has dis-
 covered about \$4.39 in silver that had
 got lodged inside the sweat band of
 the hat while the collections was be-
 ing took up in it. By jings, if it had
 been paper money, maybe he would
 never have noticed it. The Rev. has
 got a higher opinion of his congrega-
 tion, also of Deacon Libbitts, who
 takes up the collections, since he made
 his discovery.

There is so many dry fellows that
 is going to vote we, and so many wet
 fellows that is going to vote dry, that
 it is quite difficult to figure out a ma-
 jority either way in the coming elec-
 tion in our midst.

What the only difference between a
 genuine Irish pipe and a 25-cent
 imitation, is that you get more coun-
 tions with the former, and it don't
 take so long to save up for that solid
 silver pickle boat.

When it comes to going up in air-
 ships, which can't carry heavy loads,
 most fella's would rather be Wright
 than be President just now.

There are a good many things that
 need explaining, and one of them is
 they always send the purest
 girls around here to sell church sup-
 per tickets and to collect subscriptions for
 benefit concerts.

It is said to be impossible to get
 aught for nothin', but Hank Purdy
 did it. He wandered into a posthouse
 and got the smallest once, and it
 didn't cost him a cent to get in, either.

It is gettin' so that very few fel-
 lows besides Southern statesmen and
 telegraph operators chew tobacco any
 more.

A lot of fellows that kick like blazes
 when their wives ask 'em to get a new
 pair of shoe strings, will drop a nickel
 into a horseless planner without the
 slightest procrastination.

We never yet see a feller that wore
 earmuffs who didn't take a pessimis-
 tic view of life, or a stick overshoes,
 either, for that matter.

The Same Old Sixpence.
 The same old smile, the same dress
 suit,
 The same old patent leather boot,
 The same old-fashion mirror and
 The same old speech that gets the
 hand.

The same old bean of easy grace,
 The same old figure, same old face,
 The same old collar, same old tie,
 The same old way of "getting by,"
 The same old gesture, same old wit,
 The same old jolly, same old walk,
 The same old actor, same old hit,
 The same old old, same old way,
 The same old girls at matinee.

The same old hero, same old style;
 The same old honest all the while,
 The same old hand-claps as of yore,
 The same old optimistic air,
 The same old friends debonair;
 The same old friends who always go,
 The same old sign with "S. R. O."
 The same old prince was always know,
 The same old hearty friend, John Drew.

According to Uncle Abner.
 It only takes one loss to win a race,
 but it takes two to win a dice game.
 It beats all how eye-glasses will re-
 lieve the monotony of a long nose.

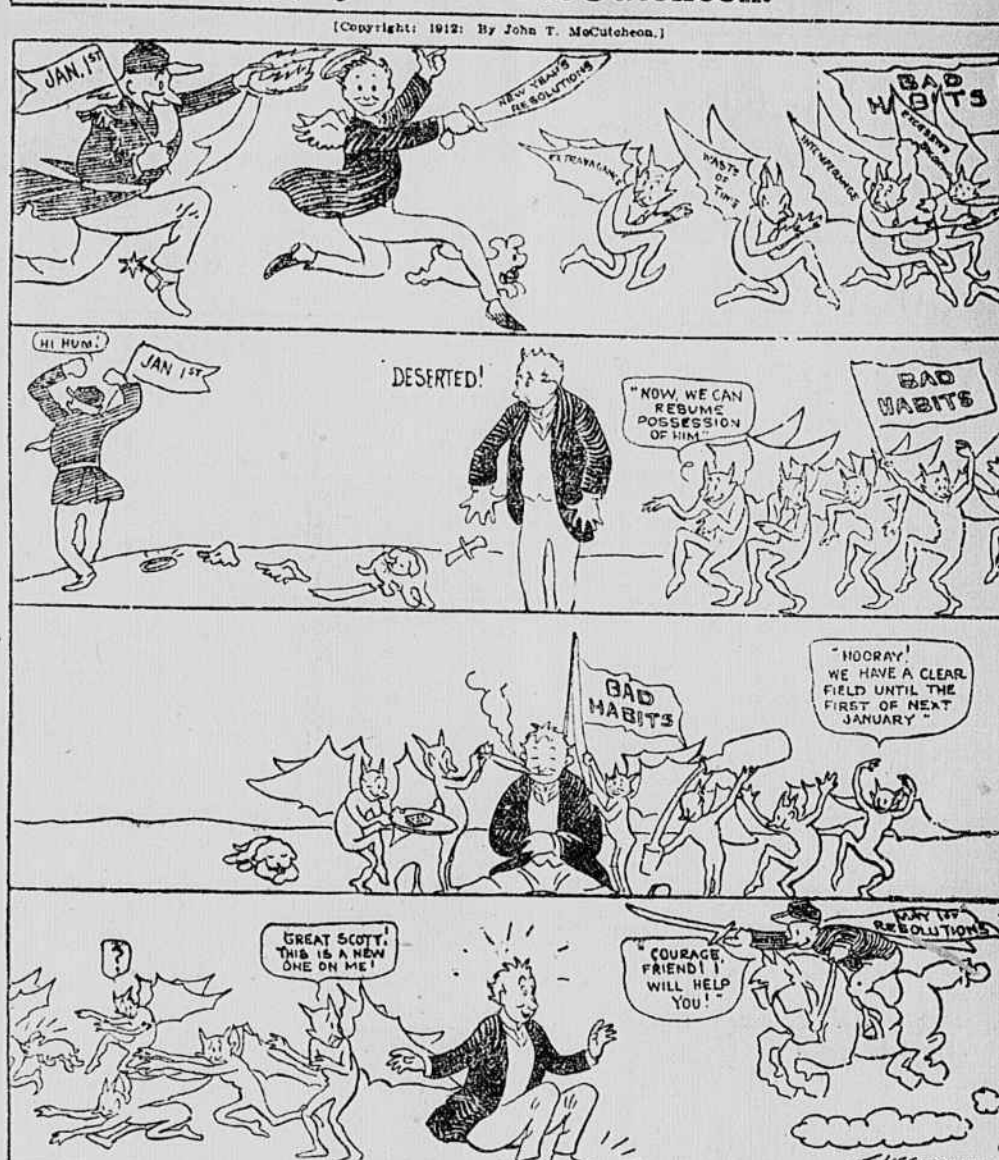
I would rather ride in a pay-as-you-
 enter street car, than in a pay-as-you-
 enter automobile.

A feller is putty apt to git back
 about what he gives out in this world.
 Hank Purdy gave Ed Henshaw a gen-
 eral around the silver pickle dish
 for a birthday present and got it
 back on his silver anniversary.

It's mighty hard for a fat man to
 make anybody believe he is sick, and
 so as long as there ain't any use in

Abe Martin

What's become of 't girl they used
 to lead 't 't altar? Miss Fawn
 Lippincott has dropped election 't
 study 't tariff.

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF ON MAY 1.
By John T. McCutcheon.

At present there is only one day in the year, January 1st, when we can turn over a new leaf and make good resolutions. It is not enough! Let May 1st be also used for that purpose, and if two good resolution days are not enough, let us have another along about the first of September, just after the fishing season.

feelin' bad, he generally manages to
 get putty well.
 Lucker and gossipin' women cause
 about nine-tenths of the unhappiness
 in this world; also in the next.

Another model husband has gone
 wrong in New York, having eloped
 with his employer, a young lady art-
 ist.

We never see a picture of a furrin'
 nobleman yet that didn't look as if he
 wished he wasn't.

Hank Todd has got three trained
 helpers and an educated goat. Reg-
 ular stock company, as it were.

Major Archibald Butt, representative
 of our government and a Southerner,
 stands side by side with Colonel Astor
 and faces and accepts death, thereby
 illustrating the glorious manhood of
 race and our innate chivalry.

This fact is the main cause of the
 storm of great disaster. Let us kiss
 Astor and Butt.

The American Salvation Army.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir:—We are contending for a ques-
 tion of vital issue to all liberty lov-
 ing people. Not a question of our
 personal character—God alone and our-
 selves know that—not as to what
 some one else in our organization has
 done, but a constitutional test. As to
 whether the city government has the
 authority to take the Constitution of
 the United States and the State of
 Virginia to grant to one religious
 body the privilege of preaching the
 Gospel on the streets and taking col-
 lections or donations for its support,
 and to another religious body (and
 bodies being incorporated) you
 shall not preach the Gospel on the
 streets of the city or solicit funds
 for the support of the same. The
 Constitution of the United States is
 very plain and specific. So that any
 ordinary man ought to understand it.
 First, it states all men have the right
 of worship, and according to the dic-
 tates of their own heart and con-
 science, and no man can be compelled
 by law to support any church. And
 still again no legislative body has the
 power to pass laws which shall dis-
 criminate between religious bodies.

Peace is theirs, and how ever! Let
 not our petitions go
 out for them, but for the rescued, who
 must bear the weight of woe;
 Who must live with anguish memory
 its execution in 1861 for the land night,
 When grim death's cold, clutching
 fingers snatched their loved ones
 from their sight.

Theirs, 't life is over, the burden,
 theirs the long and the need
 of the hearts that no more suffer, but
 from pain are ever freed.

For, amid the throng that gathered,
 horror-struck, upon the deck,
 Happiest are those that perish in
 the great Titanic wreck.

ANSTIE IRVINE NORMENT,
 Richmond.

General Lee's Picture.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir:—The photograph of General R.
 E. Lee, mentioned by Mr. A. J. Bole-
 son in your issue of yesterday, seems to
 be the same with one belonging to my
 children, which is a photographic copy
 of a painting made by their grand-
 father, the late Edward C. Bruce, of
 Winchester, Va.

This painting was made by Mr.
 Bruce from sittings given him by
 General Lee at Petersburg just before
 its evacuation in 1865 for the land night,
 of the evacuation of Richmond it was
 lost.

The late Mr. Charles B. Rouse, of
 New York, found it there; bought it,
 and owned it at the time of his death,
 and it is probably now owned by
 his son, Mr. Peter Rouse.

JEFFERSON R. TAYLOR,
 St. James Rectory, Accomac.

The Kirmess Returns Thanks
 The Kirmess Association desires to
 return thanks to the following for
 their courteous assistance: Mr. John
 R. Ruffin, Mr. John R. Ruffin, Mr.
 Jefferson Hotel, the Elks' Club, the
 Purdy Ice Cream Corporation, Liggett
 & Myers, American Tobacco Company,
 Federal Cigar Company, Lavin & Co.,
 J. G. Dill & Co., L. K. Shepherd, Kempf,
 Martin Washington Candy Company,
 Mr. Gwathmey, Allen & Smith, W. F.
 Smoor, Mann & Brown, Hammond,
 Kaufmann, The Cohen Company, Mil-
 ler & Thomas, Snyder & Hundley, Mr.
 J. P. Fourqurean, R. L. Christian,
 Lexington Hotel, Westminster Club,
 Virginia Passenger and Power Com-
 pany, Garthright & Calles, Drawry,
 Hughes & Co., Mitchell & Hotelkiss,
 Marshall Cold Storage Company,
 Porticello Water Company, Mr. Foster,
 "Cherry Smash," Mr. Pitts, of Klein
 & Co., Mitchell, R. E. Jones, Hermann
 Schmidt, A. N. Cosby, J. C. Holt, W. W.
 Tiller, D. D. Keady, Randolph Box Co.,
 Woodward & Son, Bellipse Laundry,
 Mr. Carl Roschen, J. B. Mosby, Foster
 Motor Co., Gordon Motor Co., Murphy's
 Hotel, Bailey, Banks & Biddle, Phil-
 adelphia, Louis, Garinkie, Washington,
 Mr. Granor Neal, Mr. H. W. Baker,
 Times-Dispatch, Richmond Virginian,
 News Leader, Evening Journal.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Grammatical.
 Please name for me the subject and
 the predicate in the first of these sen-
 tences and the principal and the subor-
 dinate clause in the second; 1. Did
 you ever see a cloudless sky? 2. What
 his decision will be is uncertain.

I. D.
 Subject: You. Predicate: Did see. In
 order to harmonize the analysis of the
 second sentence with the rigid gram-
 matical rule, "what" must be replaced
 by its equivalent, "that which," so the
 sentence will read: "That which his
 decision will be is uncertain." In this
 form the principal clause is
 "That is uncertain," and the
 subordinate, "which his decision will
 be." If you insist on keeping the
 form of the sentence, the best you
 can do is